

The Transfiguration

Sunday School Lesson for July 24, 1910
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Matthew 17:1-8, 14-20.
Memory verses, 1, 2.
GOLDEN TEXT.—"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."—Matt. 17:5.

TIME.—Autumn of A. D. 29. A week after our last lesson.

PLACE.—One of the spurs of Mount Hermon, and a village at its foot.

Suggestion and Practical Thought.
1. The Prayer Meeting on the Mountain Top.—V. 1. Luke 9:28-29. "And after six days." Luke counts the parts of days before and after these six. These six days were a period of incubation, of crystallization, of the sudden revelation of the way Jesus must act his part as the Messiah, and that they must share a cross instead of a throne; which threw them into the gloom of the dungeon of Giant Despair.

"Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John." It was the same favored three who a few months later were nearest to him as he prayed in Gethsemane, and still later were recognized as "pillars" of the church (Gal. 2:9).

Luke (9:28-29) tells us that Jesus went up into the mountain to pray; and that the Transfiguration took place while he prayed.

What did they pray for? It must have been for light, for strength, for guidance for help.

The answer.—Through the Transfiguration.—Vs. 2-4. While he was praying (Luke) and in answer to his prayer, he was transfigured before them.

"And his face did shine as the sun." Nothing less than the brightest and most glorious of all objects within knowledge—so bright that it destroys the eye to gaze directly upon it—could express the radiant glories of Jesus' face, when his heavenly nature shone through the veil of his flesh,—one of the few hints as to our resurrection bodies. Compare the description of Jesus in Acts 9:3 and in Rev. 1:16.

"And his raiment was white as the light," i. e., luminously white, "as no fuller on earth can white them" (Mark) i. e., with a supernatural whiteness; "white and glistening" (Luke).

"Then answered Peter," not to any question, but to the feelings the scene awakened. "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Peter spoke the truth. The experience was good, and would make him a better and more useful man all the rest of his life. It widened his outlook. It gave him a new idea of the glory that awaited the faithful. It exalted his knowledge of Jesus' power and glory, and gave strength to his trust in him.

"The Divine Testimony."—Vs. 5-8. "While he yet spake," was speaking. "A bright cloud, revealing the divine presence, an incarnation of the ineffable light of God, veiling its glory, yet making it visible to man, as the clouds that veil the sun enable us who cannot gaze into his face yet to see his beauty and glory."

"And behold a voice out of the cloud." The same voice which had been heard once before at his baptism. "This is my beloved son." Adding the voice of God to the attestation of the scene itself, and interpreting the scene. This truth must be impressed upon the disciples so that they should never lose their faith even in the dark times that were to follow; and while others were calling Jesus a criminal and blasphemer the disciples could always see him in his true glory. "Hear ye him." For he is the ambassador of God, bringing the message of love from heaven. "Hear" implies faith and obedience.

Some lessons from the Transfiguration.—1. Our richest and most heavenly experiences come in and through prayer, and often from united prayer. "Tell me your prayers and I will write the history of a soul."

Coming Down from the Mountain; and the Work Awaiting Them There.—Vs. 9-18. On the way down the disciples asked Jesus about a subject which perplexed them. They could not understand how it could be true that Elijah was a glorified spirit, and Jesus the Messiah, and yet the promise be fulfilled that Elijah must come before the Messiah. Jesus explained that John the Baptist, coming in the spirit and power of Elijah, was the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Jesus forbade them to tell the vision they had seen.

Conclusion. A lesson on Faith.—Vs. 19-20. "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart" in the house (Mark), away from all that were curious and faultfinding. Ministers sometimes proclaim to the world the faults of the church to be overcome, when they should discuss them with the church alone.

"Why could not we cast him out?" They were puzzled, and disappointed, especially as he had conferred on them authority to heal.

20. "And Jesus said . . . Because of your unbelief." i. e., "your little faith."

Illustration. . . God says to a man, do the work of a thousand men. But that is harder than to remove mountains. Yet Christian civilization has invented machinery by which any man can do it. The faith on this low plane, that has worked patiently, steadily, with God's physical powers, and wrought seeming impossibilities, is an illustration of the power of spiritual faith taking hold of God.

And this is more than an illustration. The conquering physical impossibilities has been one means through which the moral impossibilities have been overcome.

KID FIELDS OF GRASSHOPPER

Ingenious Device Called Hopperdozer
Excellent Exterminator of Injurious Insect.

A hopperdozer is an ingenious device for ridding the fields of grasshoppers. It is a long, shallow pan of sheet iron, set on runners and having behind it a banner or sail made of canvas or muslin stretched on a wooden frame. The bottom of the pan is covered with rags or old carpet, previously wetted with water. When all is ready, a pint of kerosene is poured over the wet rags, and the banner of cloth is also moistened with kerosene. The dozer is then dragged on its run-



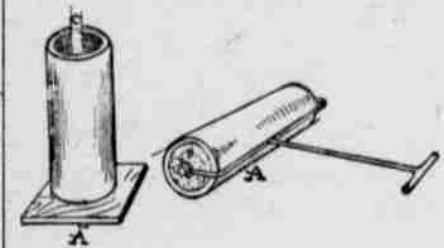
A Hopperdozer.

ners over the field and the grasshoppers either jump in or try to jump over. In which case they strike the cloth at the back and fall back into the oil. A mere touch of the oil kills them; it may take a half a minute if the insect falls directly into it or it may take half an hour if the insect simply alights on the banner moistened with the oil, but no matter whether the insect dies immediately or takes a little time, it is sure to die eventually. The great majority of the hoppers that jump into the pan, jump out again at once but they die just as certainly and almost as quickly as if they remained.

DURABLE ROLLER FOR GARDEN

May Be Made of Piece of Tiling With
Vacant Space Filled in With
Cement and Stones.

A durable garden roller may be made of a piece of tiling. It should be burnt to a glaze and the best size is about two feet in diameter. Set it upon a board and place a piece of gas pipe directly through the center, passing it two inches through a hole in the board. It should project above the tile the same distance. Fill in the



Garden Roller.

open tile to the top with cement mixed with some broken stones or bits of brick or crockery. Face the ends with the clear mixture of sand and cement. Your blacksmith will make a handle for a dollar and you will have an excellent and handy roller.



Plant the rows all one way—north and south—so the sun can strike both sides.

Keep the hoe going in dry weather and you will not need the watering pot often.

The wheel-hoe will save many a backache and do the work of three hand hoes.

Making a good garden is a man's job. Do not leave the hard work to the women folks.

Wild strawberries have the most delicious flavor. They are easily transplanted to the garden.

Cauliflower can be grown more easily than cabbage. It is always in demand and at good prices.

A handful of grain dug into an ant hill will bring the chickens to it and then good-by to the insects.

Do not plant short rows but let them run the whole length of the garden if need be—why not?

Do not molest the bees after they get to work, and give them an abundance of room in which to store honey.

The agricultural department figures out that the annual waste of barn yard manure on American farms, aggregates \$125,000,000.

The use of comb foundation has made possible the production of straight brood and extra combs and marketable comb honey.

A plant of Swiss chard sown adjoining the poultry yard will supply greens all summer provided the fowls are not allowed to eat it more than an hour a day.

Don't keep bees unless you mean to give them the proper care and attention. If you can't do that you had better leave some one else keep the bees and buy your honey from him.

Water for Bees. Plenty of water is absolutely necessary for bees; an abundant supply should be provided, to obviate the necessity of their going to streams and contaminated pools a long distance away. In brood rearing, bees make little progress without plenty of water.

Irrigate the Garden. Irrigation of the garden can be made to pay in the corn belt during the hot, dry season of summer. A little water at the right time does a world of good. In this connection a gasoline engine and some hose would pay well.

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CRUDE ASTRONOMY.

Russian Peasants Have Queer Ideas of Sun, Moon and Stars.

We have it on no less authority than that of Caesar that the Druids taught their disciples many things about the form and dimensions of the earth and the heavens and a body of doctrines on the motions of the stars. Even death itself was to them an astronomical fact. They held that from this life we pass to take up our abode in one of the heavenly bodies. That they firmly held to this belief is manifest from the fact that they had no objection to lending money to be repaid in the other world. They looked upon the passage of life in much the same way as we regard a journey across the Atlantic.

There is no doubt that even now in various parts of Europe the views of the peasantry as to the heavenly bodies and celestial phenomena have changed but little from those of their predecessors of a thousand years ago. A Russian contributed to the bulletin of the Astronomical Society of France has given the results of his observations on this point extending over ten years. The astronomical lore of the Russian peasantry of the north, center and south is limited to a knowledge of the existence of the sun and moon, of three constellations, of the Milky way, of one planet, of comets, shooting stars and meteors. The sun is to all a mysterious and beneficent being.

The moon covered with ice and snow is ever in flight from its brother, the sun. Upon its disk may be seen unmistakably portrayed the murder of Abel by Cain, the latter being done to death by a pitchfork. Chill are the lunar rays, and woe befalls the child of man who shall sleep unprotected therefrom! From the horns of the crescent much useful information as to the forthcoming weather may be derived by the learned in such things.

The stars are lamps or candles which are lit and extinguished daily by the Eternal. A shooting star is the soul of one who has just passed away. Comets are heralds of war and famine. No Russian ever forgets that the Napoleonic war followed the great comet of 1811.—Westminster Gazette.

MALIBRAN'S CAPTIVITY.

A Romantic Incident in the Career of the Great Singer.

The following incident is told of Mme. Malibran, whose voice once upon a time excited the most unromantic to folly.

She was resting in her dressing room at the theater after singing in the part of Desdemona, her passionate soul still quivering with the emotion of the part and the tears and applause of her listeners. A person entered and begged her to go to her mother, who had been taken ill. A carriage, not her own, was at the door. She was whirled through the streets and led, much to her surprise and fear, into a strange house and to an excellent boudoir, hung and carpeted with rose colored silk.

Here the beautiful songstress was left alone after being assured by her attendants that her mother was well, that the message was a subterfuge and that her captivity would last until she sang something.

On a low seat sat a lyre such as that which thrilled in Malibran's fingers as she sang Desdemona's touching song.

At first she determined to resist, but after a short time her mind reverted to the evening, and almost unconsciously she took up the instrument and sang the "Romance de Saule." As she concluded sounds of enthusiastic applause and trembling accents of delight came to her through the silk hangings, and she was then conducted by liveried servants to her carriage and to her home.

The next morning she found on her table a casket containing a magnificent pair of earrings, and inside the cover, written in diamonds, was the word "Merci." But the event remained a mystery to her forever.

Retort Filial.

In a warm argument one of the contestants had a poor case, but he defended his position vigorously.

"Oh, yes," the other one chuckled, "you have your defense, but you've lost. Losers always have their defense. Lincoln used to illustrate that with a story about his boy Tad."

"Lincoln and Tad were lunching one day in the White House."

"Don't eat your fish with your knife, boy," said Lincoln sternly. "It's not polite."

"But, father," said Tad, "is it polite to stare at folks when they're eating?"

Very True.

A grandmother was reproving her little grandchildren for making so much noise. "Dear me, children, you are so noisy today! Can't you be a little more quiet?"

"Now, grandma, you mustn't scold us. You see, if it wasn't for us you wouldn't be a grandma at all."—Harpers Weekly.

Why Lulu Was Happy.

Lulu was but two and a half years old when the first buckles she had ever seen were placed upon the table in a covered dish. When the cover was taken off she clapped her hands, exclaiming delightedly, "Oh, look at all the shoe buttons!"—Delineator.

Knew Her Limitations.

He—Now that we are married, pet, do you love me enough to cook for me? She—Enough, darling? I love you entirely too much for that.—Boston Transcript.

GOOD ALL-PURPOSE CHICKEN

Should Possess Egg-Laying Qualities and Mature Quickly for Market—Plymouth Rock Excels.

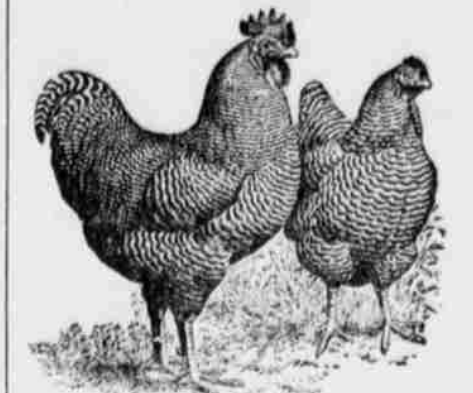
(By W. M. KELLY.)

The first thing to consider when selecting a breed is the purpose we desire them for.

There are some breeds of poultry that are adapted to but one purpose and that is laying eggs, among them being what poultrymen call the Mediterranean breeds, such as the Leghorns, Minorcas, Hamburgs and others.

These are very good breeds but what a beginner is after is a hen that will set and hatch some nice young chickens and take care of them in the best shape.

He will also want a breed that will be ideal for market, one that will mature early, have a nice clean color, be good layers, lay good-sized eggs, active enough to be good rustlers after



True Type of Barred Rocks.

grasshoppers and worms, be good setters and mothers, easily tamed and handled and a breed that will bear confinement well.

There are many excellent breeds of this class found among what are known as the American breeds. The Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, the Wyandottes, and other breeds belong to this class.

The Brahmas, Cochins, Langshans and others of the large breeds of Asiatic class are not as good layers as the smaller breeds, they are more inclined to be broody and as a rule are not as good rustlers as the American breeds and for that reason I would not advise one to select one's foundation stock from that kind of breeding.

When we look the field all over there is no breed that stands pre-eminently at the head of the utility class like the Plymouth Rocks and I do not believe that a person would go wrong if he selected stock from some good flock of that breed.

The Plymouth Rocks lay good-sized eggs that are of a nice shape and color. Of the various breeds of Rocks I would choose the White Rocks, as it is easier to breed them true to color, they dress very clean and white when killed for market.

The Buff Rocks and the Barred Rocks are excellent fowls and are fully as good in many respects as the White Rocks, but one will find it much easier to breed birds of a solid color and keep them true to type and markings than to breed the colored breeds.

For a chicken that will grow fast and mature early I know of no breed superior to the White Rocks. They have a plump body and are attractive in the market and when full grown have the weight that makes them bring home the money that it cost to grow them.

The cockerels that are to be sold in the fall make quite an important item for us to consider and the White Rocks cannot be excelled in this point.

When the hens are too old to keep for egg producing purposes it is quite an important item to have them weigh six to eight pounds.

There is an increasing demand for dressed fowls and if you have egg customers you should be able to make arrangements to supply them with dressed poultry whenever ordered and get the top price for your surplus stock.

Charcoal for Chicks.

Charcoal may be obtained from any dealer in poultry supplies at a cost of about one dollar per 100 pounds. If the reader does not understand how to burn wood for charcoal, it is perhaps cheaper to buy the prepared article. Wood may be easily converted into charcoal by getting a quantity of it to burning in a pit, then cover the top of the pit with an iron covering and leave it to smolder till the fire dies out. Pulverize the charcoal till it becomes powder and mix it with the soft feed.

Dry Picking Chickens.

Most markets require that picking be done dry. Any one can become an expert in this manner of picking with a little study and experience. As soon as the bird has been killed and while it is still bleeding, the feathers should be removed, care being taken not to tear the skin. The picker should not wait till the bird has bled, because it will become cold then and the feathers will not be removed so easily. Killing is generally done by sticking the knife in the roof of the mouth.

White China Geese Popular.

The white china geese are thought by many to be the best layers of all geese.

A good breeding goose two years old or older with good care will lay from 35 to 60 eggs in a season. Breeding geese should not be too fat, as the eggs from fat geese never hatch.

In the summer, when they can get plenty of grass, they do not need a single kernel of grain and they will thrive and keep in fine condition without it.

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